

# Local Access Forum Annual Review Form

## April 2014 to March 2015

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Name of LAF           | <b>Joint Local Access Forum for Bath &amp; North East Somerset, Bristol City and South Gloucestershire</b> |
| Name of LAF Chair     | Chris Bloor (Acting Chair)   |
| Name of LAF Secretary | Graeme Stark   |

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Total number of LAF members  | 20 |
| Number of members representing users of public rights of way or access land                        | 12 |
| Number of members representing owners and occupiers of access land or land over which PROW subsist | 3  |
| Number of members representing other interests   | 5  |

**1. LAF achievements?** (Please give examples to illustrate how your LAF has improved public access to land for the purpose of open air recreation and the enjoyment of the area)

The JLAF produced a short press release regarding the dangers of Neospora, and who its spread can be avoided, which was sent to local newspapers.

The JLAF has continued to support the volunteer work parties which were established two years ago.

The JLAF has provided advise to a number of bodies through its consultation responses.

**2. What are the main challenges affecting your LAF's ability to deliver improvements to public access in the coming year?**

The continued cuts in funding to local government, and the respective public rights of way teams with which the JLAF is involved, will continue to restrict the JLAF's ability to deliver improvements in public access.

**3. What are your top three priorities for the year ahead?**

Improve relationships with neighbouring authorities.

Support the continued replacement of stiles with less restrictive alternatives such as gates, particularly on the urban fringe.

Increased access for horseriders to shared use routes which as cycletracks.

**4. Is there any particular support or training that you need to deliver your priorities?**

Adequate funding for local authorities' work relating to public access.

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### LAF activity in 2014/15

|  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| Number of full LAF meetings held       | 3 | Number of sub-group meetings held                            | 0 |
| Number of working groups led by others | 0 | Number of training days provided by the Appointing Authority | 0 |

**Partners the LAF worked with during 2014/15** (click on a box or type 'x')

|                             |                                     |                                    |                          |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Local Nature Partnerships   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Local Enterprise Partnerships      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Health and Wellbeing Boards | <input type="checkbox"/>            | LEADER funding Local Action Groups | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Please add numbers to the following differentiating between formal consultations and general advice given by the LAF on particular subjects. If a consultation covered more than one subject area, please count separately.

|   | Consultations | Advice |
|---|---------------|--------|
| Green Infrastructure strategies   | 2             |        |
| Public Space Protection Orders (including gating orders)  |               |        |
| Transport (LTP, traffic management, rail, DfT, Highways Agency)   | 1             |        |
| Water / Coast (slipways, flood defence, EA, shoreline)  |               | 1      |
| Public open space (protection orders, commons, village greens)  |               |        |
| Dog exclusion/on leads/fouling orders   |               |        |
| Planning applications   | 2             |        |
| Housing development schemes   | 1             |        |
| Local development frameworks and planning strategies  | 1             |        |
| PROW creation, diversion or closure - number of each  |               |        |
| Right of Way Improvement Plan review  |               | 1      |
| Route improvements (to PROW and other multi-user/cycling/horse-riding/walking routes)   |               |        |
| Promotion of access, open air recreation and the enjoyment of the area  |               |        |
| Definitive map and recording PROW   |               |        |
| Parish Council or other grant schemes   |               |        |
| Disabled access / access for people with mobility issues?   |               |        |
| Vehicular access and issues relating to motorised use of PROW   |               |        |
| Nature conservation (including SSSIs)   |               |        |
| Land use and planning matters (e.g. informal advice on land development)  |               |        |
| Greenspace including Country Parks and Local Nature Reserves  |               |        |
| Open Access land restrictions   |               |        |
| Coastal Access/National Trails  |               | 1      |
| NNR dedication  |               |        |
| Agri-environment scheme issues (HLS and new Countryside Stewardship) e.g. expiring permissive access agreements, effects of land management options on public access etc. |               |        |
| Forestry and woodland   |               |        |

Any other LAF activity (please specify)

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### 5. Summarise any feedback received from section 94(4) bodies<sup>1</sup>

The JLAF has received generic feedback to consultation responses made in respect of South Gloucestershire Council's Core Strategy and Bristol City Council's plans in respect of the Temple Quarter regeneration. However, the JLAF has not received feedback which addresses specific issues raised in any of the JLAF's consultation responses.

### 6. Please provide any comments from your Appointing Authority

The three Appointing Authorities would like to pay tribute to David Waterstone who passed away in September. David was Chair of the JLAF and made a valuable contribution to outdoors access in the JLAF's area. The JLAF have had three different Chair's over the course of the last year and this appears to have had an impact on the continuity and focus of the JLAF. The JLAF have continued to struggle to attract new members, particularly those with landowning interests, despite extensive recruitment efforts.

The three Appointing Authorities would like to thank the JLAF's members for their continuing contribution over the past year and for their support of the work being carried out by the respective Public Rights of Way Teams.

### 7. Comments from LAF Chair

The year has been marked by the tragic loss of Chair David Waterstone, who contributed so much to JLAF, particularly in relation to his work with the Cotswold Wardens. The political demise of the Liberal Democrats lost us a second Chair during the year, which has led to lack of continuity. However, a lively intake of new members has offered an opportunity to update our terms of reference in the light of advice from Defra so that we can set out priorities for future work.

### 8. Any important information to bring to the attention of Natural England

The JLAF support the reinstatement of Rural Payments for permissive public access and not just biodiversity measures.

### 9. Any other comments

None.

<sup>1</sup> The Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000, Section 94(4) specifies that it is the function of a local access forum, as respects to the area for which it is established, to advise the appointing authority; the local highway authority; other bodies exercising functions under CROW Act Part 1 (Natural England, Forestry Commission and English Heritage) and such other bodies as may be prescribed. These other bodies are set out in the LAF Regulations 2007, paragraph 21, and include: any conservation board established by the Secretary of State, any parish or town council in the area covered by the LAF, and Sport England.

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